

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

71. (amended) A catalyst support having improved attrition resistance, said catalyst support being produced by a method comprising the step of treating calcined γ -alumina having no catalytic material added thereto with an acidic aqueous solution having an acidity level effective for increasing the attrition resistance of said calcined γ -alumina.

--86. The catalyst of claim 68 wherein, after said step of treating said support but before adding any catalytic material thereto, said method further comprises the step of recalcining said γ -alumina support to remove nitrate ions therefrom.

87. The catalyst of claim 67 wherein said γ -alumina support has been produced from spray-dried, synthetic boehmite.

88. The catalyst support of claim 72 wherein, after said step of treating said calcined γ -alumina but before adding any catalytic material thereto, said method further comprises the step of recalcining said calcined γ -alumina to remove nitrate ions therefrom.--